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PROGRAM News

STATION WTOP Radio

DATE June 23, 1982 5:30 P.M. CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT Bill for American Spies

IRA MELMAN: President Reagan told employees of the Central Intelligence Agency they're on the winning side today when he signed into law a bill making it a crime to disclose the names of American spies. The President called the law a vote of confidence.

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN: The enactment of the Intelligence Identities Protection Act is clear evidence of the value this nation places on its intelligence agencies and their personnel. It's a vote of confidence in you by the American people, through their elected representatives.

MELMAN: The controversial measure makes disclosure illegal, even if the spies' names are contained in public records. It's the first time someone can be prosecuted for revealing publicly available information.

The American Civil Liberties Union has threatened to challenge the law at the first opportunity.

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